4: Cummins D-4 (no date) 1937 MD1 Syria MD1

DERMATOGLYPHICS IN PEOPLES OF THE NEAR EAST

I. LEBANESE: MITWALI

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121 This report is presented as a record of data toward an eventual analysis of racial variation in dermatoglyphics. It is to be hoped that a broad comparison of races on this basis may be eventually possible, but it will be necessary to continue the accumulation of records on various populations, perhaps from time to time taking stock of progress as has been done recently by Steggerda, Steggerda and Lane for the palmar features (Middle American Research Series, publication 7, Tulane University, '36).

124 101 795 The material here treated represents a population not hitherto investigated from the standpoint of dermatoglyphics. The Mitwali are a Syrian mountain people, living in the southern Lebanon range. They are Moslems, but adhere to the Shiite sect rather than to the Sunni which is common to the region. There are 138 subjects in the series, males and females being in the proportion of about two to one; in view of the small numbers the sexes are combined. The subjects are mainly children in the government schools, the adult population having proved generally unsuitable for printing—on account of extensive callouses.

141 128 The palmar features, main lines and patterns, are tabulated in tables 1 and 2, their formulations following the methods of Cummins et al. (Am. J. Phys. Anthrop., XII, '29).

The data on lines A and D have been further analyzed, to determine the main-line index which has been suggested by Cummins (Middle American Research Series, Tulane University, publication 7, '36) as a value denoting the degree of slant of the general palmar configuration. For the 276 hands

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000 and balance of payments; lack of technical skill; weakness in banking, monetary and financial systems ; and, in general, a primitive economic and financial structure.

4. It is clear to us that, under these conditions, the promotion of economic development must be to a large extent a government affair. Only the state has the authority and control of resources, to create conditions favourable to development, to establish principles, and to put into motion the machinery for its implementation. The state alone can make the changes and undertake the projects that are necessary to the economic well-being of the country. First, new laws must be passed to create legal, technical and organizational conditions favourable to development. For example, property rights must be safeguarded, the ownership and exploitation of land regulated, and a new code introduced into commercial transactions and economic activity generally. An organization must be estabished to formulate a policy of economic development and to carry out its implementation. It must have at its disposal full and accurate statistical information, and technical studies of the country's hidden wealth and neglected resources. The government must undertake large projects like land surveying and settlement, irrigation, drainage, and the construction of roads and bridges, which, though necessary before further development can take place, are beyond the capacity and capital of individuals. Finally, in order to achieve integration of effort, the government must direct the policy of economic development so as to ensure harmony between its several economic, monetary and financial aspects.

●121 5. The obstacles that stand in the way of economic development in Syria are fundamentally not different from those we outlined above (paragraph 3) though Syria has already covered considerable ground in these fields. In what follows we shall attempt to analyse Syria's condition at the dawn of her independence. We shall then briefly review the achievements of the country during the 1945-1953 period, so as to deduce from them the problems that at present beset economic development in Syria, and arrive at possible solutions. This paper will therefore be divided into three parts:

Problems of economic development.

A brief review of economic development, 1945-1953.

Current problems and possible solutions.

9: Hitti S-5 (ca. 1926) 1928 MD1 Syria MD1
Druze MD6

Commission of the League of Nations the question was raised as to whether there was anything in the Druze teachings that was inimical to organized government and to state authority.

A study of Druzism is especially valuable and interesting not only because its adherents, unlike the adherents of the other sects, have shown remarkable vitality and thrust themselves repeatedly upon the attention of the world—as in the case of the current events in Syria—but because of its historic connection with Christianity and Oriental Christian sects. In its rise and development from Moslem soil, Druzism held close relationship to Christianity and became heir to a number of Zoroastrian and Judaeo-Christian sects, as well as to a body of Hellenistic and Persian philosophies. Many of those sects and schools of thought have since disappeared, but Druzism is still with us; and, through its medium, their ideas have survived to the present day. The religious and philosophical concepts of many Shi'ite Moslem, and a few semi-Christian, sects have been preserved to us through Druzism, though the original sects and their votaries have long become extinct.

As we shall, therefore, in the following pages analyze and investigate the apparently strange dogmas and tenets of Druze belief, we shall find in addition to Neo-Platonic and Manichaean influences, marked traces of Jewish and Christian influences which have trickled thereto through Moslem strata. The basic fundamentals of Druze theology, as we shall see, are paralleled by corresponding Christian dogmas. One of the founders of Druzism was a renegade Christian, and many of its early leading converts were tribes belonging to some one of the Oriental churches.

There is, after all, nothing mysterious in the "Asian mystery," and the "great enigma" does lend itself to solution.

11: Hourani S-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria map

PREFACE

● 121 THE course of events during the war, in underlining afresh the importance of the Middle East in international politics and strategy, has drawn attention to the lack of up-to-date studies on this region. The present is the first of several books which Chatham House plans to issue on Middle Eastern countries and problems. In Syria and Lebanon, with their diversities of religious, political, cultural and economic outlook, and the legacy of their status as Mandated Territories, most of the issues which affect the Middle East as a whole are to be seen in their most complex and baffling forms. No authoritative work has appeared in English on these questions during the last twenty years, and Mr. Hourani is, by background, training and recent experience, exceptionally qualified to present a reliable survey of their character and their wider bearings.

ASTOR
Chairman of the Council

Chatham House,
St. James's Square,
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July 1945

11: Hourani S-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria MD1

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THIS book, like all political works written in war-time, suffers from certain defects. At a time when the face of the world changes so rapidly and the process of publication takes so long it is inevitable that books on current political problems should be partly out of date as soon as they are published. Moreover, there are important and delicate subjects which in normal times would require the fullest treatment but now can only be dealt with tentatively and circumspectly, if at all. Three chapters, in particular, are affected by these reservations. In Chapter VIII, which deals with foreign interests in Syria and Lebanon, I have analyzed those interests as they existed in 1939, leaving it to the reader to estimate how much they and the policies based upon them will have changed when the war comes to an end. In Chapter XII the narrative of events during the war years ends with the assumption of office by nationalist Governments in the middle of 1943; but the controversial happenings of later months are summarized in a postscript. At the same time, Anglo-French relations in the Levant since 1941 have only been treated in outline, without insistence upon painful detail. Finally, the discussion of Arab unity in Chapter XIII should be reviewed in the light of the series of conferences and discussions which began in Alexandria in September, 1944, after the book was substantially completed. In spite of these deficiencies I have decided to allow publication of the book to proceed because of the importance and urgency of some of the problems with which it deals.

At all stages of its growth my book has owed more than I can say to the many friends and colleagues who have helped me to an understanding of Middle Eastern politics, brought relevant information to my notice and read parts of the manuscript. I am particularly conscious of my many-sided debt to Dr. C. Malik, Dr. C. Zurayq, Professor H. A. R. Gibb, Mr. H. Beeley and Commander C. Schaeffer. More perhaps than they know they have influenced my thinking upon Arab questions, and what positive ideas the book contains mostly derive from one or other of them. I owe a debt of another kind, but equally great, to various members of the staff of the Royal Institute of International Affairs and

11: Hourani S-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria MD1

INTRODUCTION

I

THIS essay springs from a number of beliefs about Near Eastern affairs, which have been constantly in the author's mind during the writing of it, and to clarify which was the main reason for its being undertaken. They may be summarized as follows :

(i) The spread of Western influences since the beginning of the nineteenth century has caused a fundamental change in the life of Syria and Lebanon, as in that of the other Arabic-speaking countries. The process of change has raised two questions which cannot wholly be separated from one another : first the question of forming a unity out of the two civilizations, their own and that of the West, between which the Arabic-speaking peoples are torn ; and secondly, the question of establishing a 'healthy' relationship, based upon equality and mutual respect, between them and the peoples of the West.

(ii) The solution of these two problems is of great importance not only for the Arabs themselves but also for the West, since the West now possesses living and inescapable relations, both moral and material, with the Arab lands.

(iii) Arab nationalism is the political form of the response which the existence and the consciousness of these problems has aroused among the Arabs. It is an attempt to defend the existence of the Arab community against forces which threaten to disrupt it, and to control and direct the process of Westernization in the light of principles which the Arabs accept as valid.

(iv) Arab nationalism is still an unformed movement and has not yet decided its attitude towards the West. There are two paths which it can follow, which may be called those of 'excommunication' from and of 'communion' with the West. The movement may become primarily one of opposition to the West, borrowing only the technical skill of Europe and America in order the better to resist both the encroachments of Western States and the challenge of the

11: Hourani S-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria #01

Western spirit. It may, on the other hand, become a movement for the reconstruction of Arab society through a fundamental assimilation of the best elements in Western life (although not necessarily by imitation of them); in this task the help of Western Governments and peoples will be essential.

For the sake both of the Arabs and of the West, it is essential that the nationalist movement should take the second of these paths. If it takes the first, it will become impossible to establish a 'healthy' relationship with Europe, and nationalism itself will turn into a purposeless movement of hatred and fanaticism. This will distort not only the political development of the Arabs, but their life in all its aspects.

(v) Which of the two paths it will take will depend upon many factors. Among the most important of them are: the attitude of the Western Powers to the Arabs; the changes in Arab social and economic life; and the development of the Arab intellect. But the most important factor, and perhaps the least easy to predict, is the relationship which is established between Islam and a Westernized society, and between Islam and Christianity.

(vi) In the great changes which are remoulding the life of the Arabic-speaking peoples, Syria and Lebanon have a peculiarly important part to play. On account of their geographical situation, their traditions and certain characteristics of their people, they can serve as mediators of Western civilization to Arab Asia. But they can only carry out this function if their political relations with the other Arab regions and with the Western Powers are defined in a satisfactory manner.

It is therefore of particular importance to study the problem of Westernization in Syria and Lebanon, and to make clear the conditions under which a unity or a balance can be established between the traditional and the new elements in the life of the Syrians and Lebanese, and between them and the Western peoples with whom they are in contact.

This essay is an attempt to consider these problems in their

11: Houranî 8-4 (no date) 1946 MDL Syria MD1

political aspect. It tries to make clear the effect of changing spiritual, intellectual and social conditions upon political life; the attempts which are being made to establish new political forms adequate to the needs of a new age; and the relations of Syria and Lebanon with one another, with the other Arabic-speaking countries and with the Western Powers.

The first part of the book summarizes the history of Syria and Lebanon, with particular attention to the successive forms of government to which they have been subjected, the relations of those Governments with local communities, and the various influences which have helped to mould the nature of the inhabitants; the process by which French rule was established is described in some detail. Part Two analyzes the general problem which lies at the root of almost all the political difficulties of the present period: the problem of a traditional society changing fundamentally under the impact of Western civilization. The effects of this impact on the economic, social and intellectual life of Syria and Lebanon are sketched; its effects in the political sphere are discussed at length. It is shown how the contact between old and new has given rise to the Arab nationalist movement. The nature and weaknesses, the internal and external difficulties of nationalism are described; and especially the difficulties which spring from the existence of a number of important minorities. This part ends with a summary of the interests of the Western Powers in Syria and Lebanon. Part Three contains a narrative of political history from the beginning of the French occupation to the present day. It deals mainly with the conflict between French policy and the aspirations of the nationalists, and summarizes the steps which have been taken and the statements made since the Allied occupation of 1941. Finally, Part Four sets forth the principles upon which must rest a successful definition of the relations of France with Syria and Lebanon, and of France and Great Britain in Syria and Lebanon. It ends with some general considerations upon the path which the Arab movement might profitably take.

In the course of the book questions are raised too numerous, complex and profound to be disposed of in so slight a work. The author has laid his main emphasis upon certain of them, and in a perhaps arbitrary manner has chosen only to touch the surface of others; for example, the social and economic bases of Arab nationalism are dealt with in a summary fashion.

11: Hourani S-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria 491

128 Other questions which would call for full discussion in a comprehensive treatise have been wholly ignored. The work has been described as an essay in order to indicate these limitations in its scope, no less than to avoid making too high a claim for the studies and experience upon which it is based.

2

121 101 It is important to make clear the way in which the term 'Syria' is used in the title and the text. Confusion has sometimes arisen from its use in several different senses: (i) In the past it has often been used to refer to the whole area stretching from the Taurus Mountains in the north to the Sinai Peninsula in the south, and from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the Syrian Desert on the east. This area constitutes in many ways a single geographical unit, and its indigenous inhabitants form in some sense a single people. (ii) After the War of 1914-1918 this geographical unit was divided into two political areas; the southern area, which includes the regions now known as Palestine and Transjordan, was placed under a British Mandate, and the northern under a French. The term 'Syria' is sometimes used to refer to the whole northern area. (iii) This northern area was subdivided by the Mandatory Power into several political units, to which was given the collective name of 'Les États du Levant' or 'The Levant States'. From 1925 to 1936 they were four in number: the States of Syria and Greater Lebanon, or, as they are now called, the Syrian and Lebanese Republics, and the Governments of Latakia (known at first as the 'State of the Alawis') and Jebel Druze. In 1936 the two Governments were formally annexed to the State of Syria, and were known no longer as 'Governments' but as 'Provinces'. Thus the term 'Syria' is often used in a third sense, to refer to the State of Syria, before 1936 excluding, and since then including, Latakia and Jebel Druze.

The explicit subject of this essay is 'Syria' in the second of the three senses defined above. This area will ordinarily be referred to as 'the French Mandated Territories', 'Syria and Lebanon' or 'the Levant States'. In the historical chapters (I-IV), however, it has been necessary to deal in general with the larger, geographical unit of the first definition. In these chapters, therefore, the term 'Syria' will be used to

11: Houran 3-4 (no date) 1946 MD1 Syria M01

cover the whole of that unit, which will normally be referred to as 'geographical Syria'. Elsewhere in this book the word 'Syria' will only be employed to describe the State of Syria or Syrian Republic: that is, in the third sense.

All these terms are used simply for convenience and without any desire to prejudice the questions, which will be touched upon in the course of the essay, whether and on what grounds the political separation of the British from the French Mandated Territories, and of Syria from Lebanon, was justified.

14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

This is the report of a mission to Syria, organized by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at the request of the Government of Syria. The task of the mission was to undertake a general review of Syria's economic potentialities and to submit recommendations designed to assist the government to formulate a long-term development program for increasing Syria's productive resources and raising the standard of living of its people. The recommendations were to concern the approximate rate of public capital expenditure which Syria can appropriately undertake, priorities for such expenditure as among different sectors of the economy and as among types of undertakings within those sectors, measures apart from capital investment for improving and increasing production and raising living standards, and economic, fiscal and administrative policies and measures necessary for the success of the development program.

The mission consisted of ten full-time members. The adviser on agricultural production was nominated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; one of the economists is a member of the regular staff of the International Monetary Fund. Five members (the advisers on industry, housing and community planning, water resources and power, and transportation, and the agricultural economist) were recruited by the Bank from outside its staff. The other three members are members of the Bank's regular staff. The mission chief and one of the experts are from the Netherlands; the other mission members are from Switzerland, France, Greece, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The mission arrived in Syria early in February 1954 and remained until the latter part of April. During their stay in Syria, members of the mission travelled through all of the country's nine provinces. The mission reassembled at the Bank's headquarters for the purpose of writing this report.

The report is in two parts. Part I, the Main Report, contains the mission's recommendations for the organization and financing of a program of government action extending over five full years. Part II contains a series

[p. vi CONTAINS NO TEXTUAL MATERIAL.]

121 of Annexes consisting of technical notes on Syria's international economic position, public finance, agriculture, irrigation, agricultural institutions, industry, electric power, transportation and communications, and settlements and social services.

100 The President of the Bank transmitted the report to the President of Syria in March 1955. The letter of transmittal noted that since the Executive Directors and management customarily do not review the recommendations of missions in detail, the report as transmitted represented the views of the mission rather than positive recommendations of the Bank. The letter added, however, that the Bank believed that the findings of the report deserved the most careful consideration and discussion.

Similarly, while the other international agencies which participated in the organization of the mission were given an opportunity to comment on the portions of the report of particular interest to them, responsibility for the recommendations of the report is to be regarded as that of the mission alone.

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14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

CHAPTER 2

ECONOMIC PROGRAMMING AND ECONOMIC DATA

The Mission's Task

Before discussing its recommendations in various fields, the mission considers it advisable to explain briefly its conception of, and its approach to, this task. In broad terms, the mission was charged with working out an economic development program for the consideration of the Syrian government. The object of this program is manifestly to improve the standard of living in such a way that all elements of the population may share in the benefits of an expanding economy.

The program we have elaborated is one for government action. Under a free or private enterprise economy production and investment by private individuals cannot, of course, be programmed. At the same time it is obvious that the government's economic efforts must be directed largely toward stimulating output and that the volume of production and private investment in turn affects the resources available to the government for financing its program. There is thus an intimate interrelationship between the government's program and private effort. We have already indicated that there are signs pointing to a decline in the rate at which the private enterprise economy has been growing. Although such a prospective decline is extremely difficult to measure in quantitative terms, we have sought to take it into account both in devising a government program and in assessing the available resources. In our view the trend in private economic activity makes an effective program of government action all the more urgent.

We have not conceived of a development program simply as a series of public investment projects properly related to each other so that they form a consistent whole. Public investment in irrigation, roads, education, public health and other fields undoubtedly plays an important role in stimulating production and improving conditions of life. There is, however, a wide variety of public expenditures which do not take the form of investment but nevertheless significantly influence the level of economic

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

activity. These range from continuing expenditures on the preservation of public order to current outlays on education and public health and on government services for agriculture. Indeed, few activities of the government are entirely unrelated to development. This does not mean that the mission has taken within its purview virtually the entire scope of government operations. Many of these, for example in the field of public security, manifestly can be taken for granted. In general the mission has concerned itself only with those current expenditures which appeared to require expansion because they would provide a significant stimulus to the economy or because investment projects in turn entailed larger current outlays for operation and maintenance.

It was not the mission's task to work out in detail specific investment projects, whether in agriculture, industry or transport. A number of projects were included in the recommended program on the basis of prima facie evidence that they were likely to prove economically rewarding. Subsequent detailed engineering and economic appraisals may well lead to the modification of some of our recommendations. The mission confined itself to indicating the general lines along which development should take place and the approximate allocation of government resources which appeared appropriate in the light of available facts.

The mission had to frame a development program which would be within Syria's capacity to finance. This in itself imposed certain requirements on us. In proposing any measure it was necessary to appraise at the same time its cost to the government. It will be understood that such cost estimates could be only rough approximations in most cases. When the mission's recommendations are worked out in greater detail by the government, firmer estimates will no doubt become available. It was also essential to take into account all the government's prospective expenditures irrespective of their relationship to economic development. The adequacy of financial resources could not be assessed without considering all the claims that would be made on the use of available funds. Thus, although none of the mission members was a specialist in education and public health, it was necessary to examine the requirements of these services which in recent years have absorbed 36-37% of ordinary budget outlays. Certain expenditures, such as those on defense, obviously fell outside the scope of the mission's inquiry, but even here some assumption as to their future magnitude had to be made.

In estimating the financial resources available to cover projected

14:International Bank S-5 (1954)1955 MD1 Syria MD1

expenditures, the mission has tried to appraise, first of all, the effect of 121
future economic development on tax revenues. In making this estimate the mission assumed, as already indicated, that the economy would not expand as rapidly as in the past. More reliable information on the past rate of economic growth and on the development potential would undoubtedly have facilitated a more accurate prognosis. Secondly, the mission had to explore the possibility of increasing government revenue by more efficient collection of existing taxes and levying new taxes. Finally, it was necessary to adopt a number of assumptions regarding the development of non-tax receipts, including domestic borrowing and foreign financial assistance. It will be appreciated that the projection of government revenues as well as of expenditures over a number of years is beset by many uncertainties. Several crop failures, for example, could easily upset the balance and necessitate a modification of the program.

We have not been concerned exclusively with drawing up a program of government expenditures. Major economic and financial policies related to development have also been considered. Such policies can affect significantly the extent, direction and efficiency of private enterprise.

In working out its recommendations for a program, the mission has thought in terms of a period up to the end of the year 1960. The determination of any given period is always to some extent arbitrary. We felt, however, that any projection beyond 1960 would be attended by excessive uncertainty, and at the same time we considered that any significant accomplishment would require continuous effort over at least five or six years. Throughout this report we refer to our proposals as a six-year program, indicating that 1955 is considered as the program's initial year. Since our report was not submitted informally to the government until the end of 1954, only certain preliminary measures are likely to be taken in 1955. This means that the recommended program actually extends over five full years.

The mission's recommendations are obviously designed to provide only guidance for the government in working out its own development program. Economic programming must be done both on an annual basis and on a longer-term basis. The longer-term program such as the six-year plan we have outlined is needed to determine the goals and the approximate allocation of resources which may be envisaged. It will need to be periodically revised in the light of progress achieved, changes affecting the availability of resources, alterations in world economic conditions and

14:International Bank S-5 (1954) 1955 MD1 Syria MD1

any new facts which may be brought to light as the result of more thorough investigation of particular projects. Within the general framework of the longer-term plan, an annual program will need to be drawn up in much greater detail, taking into account the exact status of particular projects and the resources in both personnel and funds which are likely to be available during that specific year.

Any program will be conditioned by the availability of personnel as well as of financial resources. The mission's recommendations rest on the assumption that measures will be taken to train people for certain parts of the program, to obtain more technical assistance from abroad and to raise the standards and improve the efficiency of the government service. Even under the best circumstances, however, the execution of the many proposals we have made will place a great burden on the government. Progress may therefore not be as rapid as we have assumed. It should be pointed out, however, that we do not anticipate that the government will begin to implement all our proposals at once. Presumably only a few can be acted on in the first year, and many of our suggestions, particularly in the field of agriculture, relate to projects which would only be begun within the six-year period and which would be carried out in the main after 1960. We judge it important, however, to initiate action along a broad front during the next five or six years so that development thereafter may gain increasing momentum.

In formulating our proposals we have drawn on many sources for suggestions. Many of these proposals have been considered by the government at various times. The fact that some have been incorporated in our proposed program without a discussion of their origins does not mean that the mission claims to have originated them. Similarly, in focusing on those measures which should, in our opinion, be taken in the future, we have not always been able to pay adequate attention to the accomplishments of the past. There is no doubt, however, that Syrian people can be proud of the achievements during the first decade of the country's independence.

Limitations of Data

The mission wishes to emphasize that the lack of reliable information on many aspects of the economy made its task considerably more difficult. It is essential that a much greater effort be devoted to gathering data

16: Collart et al G-5 (1953) 1954 MD1 Syria MD1

FOREWORD

658
172 The Minister of Education of the Syrian Republic, drawing attention to the importance of the problem of historical remains in Syria, requested Unesco to send a mission of inquiry to prepare a detailed report on: (a) the general situation and importance of ancient buildings and historical and archaeological sites in Syria; (b) general measures which might be taken to preserve these buildings and sites and make best advantage of them; (c) special measures to be taken to preserve and restore buildings and sites considered particularly important or urgently in need of such preservation or restoration.

Syria is one of the countries richest in historical remains, but her very riches in this respect make heavy demands on her resources. The Syrian Government, well aware of its cultural responsibilities, shows an enlightened interest in its country's past by freely allocating the large sums needed yearly for the upkeep and enhancement of its monuments. In addition to making this financial contribution, the government also shows its interest by extending a generous welcome to expeditions of foreign scholars who wish to carry out excavations in Syria; international co-operation is thus being established and maintained, with good results, on archaeological excavation sites. The Directorate of Antiquities believes that such co-operation might well be extended to the restoration of monuments which, for their artistic value and historical importance, may be considered as belonging to all mankind. It hopes that the results of the first inquiry organized by Unesco may lead to more definite collaboration in this field. This report, marking the first step in this direction, may suggest where such collaboration is called for.

121 In conformity with our instructions, we have endeavoured to describe both the general situation as regards historical monuments and archaeological sites in Syria, and the state of individual sites and monuments. We have tried to indicate the difficulties that must be overcome in order to ensure their preservation, and to suggest certain measures which might help to expand the work already begun with such good results

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121 in this field by the Directorate of Antiquities. We have also studied the special conditions in each of the country's great archaeological regions, the particular difficulties to which the presentation and restoration of their monuments give rise, and practical ways of applying the principles already formulated.

114 The mission, consisting of an archaeologist, Mr. Paul Collart, a professor at the universities of Geneva and Lausanne, as head of the mission, an architect, Mr. Armando Dillon, Superintendent of Historical Monuments in Palermo, and Dr. Selim Abdul-Hak, Director-General of Syrian Antiquities, spent 10 weeks, from the end of May to the beginning of August 1953, collecting the necessary information on the spot. Thanks to the facilities accorded to them, Mr. P. Collart and Mr. A. Dillon were able to travel extensively in the country and thus form a well-grounded opinion on the various questions which they had to study.

000 It is our pleasant duty here to express our very sincere gratitude to all those who helped us in our task: at Damascus, to the officials of the Antiquities Service, who gave us assistance and advice on many occasions, and particularly to Mr. Ziki Amit, who accompanied us on our tours of the city; at Aleppo to Mr. Feisal Serafi, Director of Antiquities in northern Syria, and Mr. Soubhi Saouaf, Technical Officer; at Bosra, to Mr. Souleiman Magdad, Superintendent of Antiquities; at Sueida, Palmyra, Raqqa, Qalaat Seman, Hama and the Krak des Chevaliers, to the inspectors and attendants who so kindly welcomed us and acted as our guides. We should also like to thank Mr. Henri Seyrig, who authorized us to take our illustrations for this report from the collection of aerial photographs at the French Archaeological Institute in Beirut, and Mr. Georges Tchalenko, who gave us much useful information.

Lastly, although he was himself a member of the mission, we should like to express our gratitude to Dr. Selim Abdul-Hak for the kind welcome he gave us and all that he did to make our work easier during our stay in Syria.

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FOREWORD

121 This is the 22th issue of the Statistical Abstract of Syria which contains statistical information up to 1953.

The first two issues of the Abstract were published in Arabic only and the following Abstracts bilingually in Arabic and English. The English language was introduced in the Abstract in order that it provides a wider use of the Abstract by foreign institutions and experts engaged by the Government, it facilitates the answering of questions and inquiries raised by international agencies and foreign institutions as well as it insures the continuation of the present system of free exchange of publications with the international and national statistical offices.

The attention of readers is drawn to the fact that the Ministry of Interior has changed the names of certain mohafazat and qadas, and these changes have been introduced in the various tables of this Abstract. For easy reference, we give herebelow the changes that have taken place :

Hawa mouafaza	Dir'a
Al-Jazira mohafaza	Hassakeh
Al-Furat mohafaza	Deir-es-Zor
Al-Jolan Qada	Quneitra
Al-Qalamoun Qada	Nabek
Wadi-el-Ajam Qada	Qatana
Jabal-el-Akrad Qada	Ifrin

We have pleasure in taking this opportunity to express, once again, our thanks to the various ministries and public and private institutions for their co-operation in furnishing the basic information of the statistical data presented in this publication. We hope that the field of this co-operation will be extended in the near future, enabling us to place at the disposal of Government as well as members of the public a wider scope of statistical data which may serve to be one of the basis of consultation in the work of developing the Country economically and socially.

Suggestions and observations from our readers towards the improvement of this Abstract will be carefully considered and greatly appreciated.

20th August, 1954. DIRECTORATE OF STATISTICS

PRECEDING P. i